

## The Last Templar in England

I recently came across a site by accident concerning what they call the “ Last Templar in England “, this is a very good page with some information regarding the Templars, it has pictures regarding the Templars and pictures of a grave that was uncovered that could be that of a Knight Templar.

The place concerned is Christchurch Priory in Dorset, this was formally Hampshire, in 1908 whilst digging on routine maintenance work the workers came across an unmarked tomb. The Skeleton within the tomb measured 6’ 3”, the tomb after further examination was found to be made from Purbeck Marble, this marble is found on the Isle of Purbeck, and the area is still quarried today.

The man in question in the tomb they believe is Stephen de Stapelbrugge, there are various spellings of his name including “ Staplebriggs “ a Knight Templar, it states that he was inducted into the Order twice, this is most unusual, read the article on the website for more into this, he was inducted again as mentioned earlier into the Templar Order by Simon le Jay in 1295 at Keele in the West Midlands.

There seems to be a huge mistake in the dates given, it states that Stephen died in 1346 aged 60, that means he was born in 1286, to be a Knight Templar you had to be 21 years old, this means that he was not 21 years old until 1307.

When I saw Stephen’s name I thought I have seen that before, on looking back on my paperwork there he was, he had been at Temple ( Balantrodoch ) and was called before the court at Holyrood Abbey at the trial of the Templars in 1309, Thomas Tocci de Thorlby had also been at Balantrodoch and I have no doubt so was William de la More ( Raynouard on his work on the Order calls him a Scotsman ).

Brian le Jay was as far I can see made Master of England in 1298 and was killed at the battle of Falkirk in the same year, so he only had a short term as Master in England, previously he was the Master of Scotland for about two years, Guy de Foresta was the Master of England in 1295.

So what happened after the trials at Holyrood Abbey, some of the English Knights that were up here obviously asked permission to go home, if this was granted then off they went only to be arrested again, put in prison and tortured, at least this never happened to them in Scotland. After the Scottish trial they were perhaps asked to go to England to stand trial there, not looking at what would happen to them once they arrived.

I have no doubt that the Stephen de Stapelbrugge mentioned on the site is same one I have as being at Balantrodoch, it would be too much of a coincidence having two Knights with the same name at around the same time period, there is however a difference of around nine years.

Processus factus contra Templarios in Scotia “Concillia“

<http://www.storyline-features.co.uk/templar-trail1.htm>

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